# Frequently Asked Questions About AQMIS
September 18, 2007

➢ **What is AQMIS?**

The Air Quality and Meteorological Information System (AQMIS) is a web-based source for real-time (and historical) air quality and meteorological data. AQMIS contains data measured within less than two hours from about 180 air quality sites and over 800 meteorological sites. The system collects, summarizes, and displays 14 air quality and eight ground level meteorological parameters using a web-based interface. Users can choose from these parameters and display data by location, date, and daily, hourly, monthly, or annual statistics. To get a visual picture, the parameters can also be displayed on a map of the State of California. The Air Resources Board is continuously enhancing AQMIS to make the site as accurate and user-friendly as possible. In addition, data streams are continually added to provide more data coverage throughout the state.

➢ **Who uses AQMIS?**

AQMIS is available to anyone with an interest in current or historical air quality and meteorological data. It is used in a variety of ways by different groups of people throughout the state. For instance, AQMIS is used internally by the Meteorology Group for smoke management, by Modelers to exercise and validate air quality models, and by management to understand air quality trends and to track progress made on air quality. It is used externally by the general public, businesses, air districts, and researchers to get information about air quality in selected regions. Since AQMIS provides real-time data, this data has not undergone a rigorous quality assurance process and is considered to be "preliminary" data.

➢ **How do I use AQMIS?**

AQMIS is available by accessing the following link: www.arb.ca.gov/airqualitytoday
Users can choose from the available menus to specify the parameter, date, and area of
interest, and AQMIS will generate a report or summary with the requested information.
For detailed instructions on using AQMIS visit the page "Instructions on Using AQMIS".

➢ **How does AQMIS help me on a day-to-day basis?**

The data and reports provided by AQMIS can be useful in a variety of ways. For
example, real-time air quality can be used to track an area's progress against air quality
standards, and it can provide valuable information on public health and exposure on any
given day (and whether or not air pollution advisories are warranted).

The meteorological data can be used to support smoke and air pollution forecasting,
both in real-time and historically.

The data downloads of air quality and meteorological data can be very helpful in
research and analytical projects.

➢ **How can I tell others about AQMIS?**

We are very excited about AQMIS and encourage as many people as possible to use
the site. If you know of someone who is interested in air quality data, please feel free to
provide them with the link information to the web site or have them contact ARB directly
to discuss how to access and use AQMIS. ARB welcomes any suggestions on
improving the applicability of AQMIS and on expanding its user base.

➢ **How can I add an "Air Quality Today" icon to my computer?**

Note: It is easier to print the air quality pages using Internet Explorer.

1.  Right click on the Windows desktop screen and select "New" and then "Shortcut" on the resulting popup menu.

2.  A "Create Shortcut" window will appear. Based on your browser preference for the AQMIS web pages, under 'Type in the location of the item:' enter the following:

    *Internet Explorer Users:*

    *"C:\Program Files\Internet Explorer\IEXPLORE.EXE"* *http://www.arb.ca.gov/airqualitytoday*

    *Firefox Users:*

    *"C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe"* *http://www.arb.ca.gov/airqualitytoday*

    *To use your default web browser:*

    *http://www.arb.ca.gov/airqualitytoday*

    *\* Note in the first two choices the first portion of the locations you enter are the default paths for Internet Explorer and for Firefox. If the location of your IEXPLORE.EXE or firefox.exe file is different, then determine the path of your desired browser and include that in your location instead.*

3.  Click on the "Next" button and enter a name for the new shortcut (Air Quality Today, AQMIS, or another name of your choosing), and click the "Finish" button.

4.  Double click on the shortcut you have created to test the shortcut and to access the Air Quality website.